

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a floor polishing composition for purposes of providing protection, antifouling property, gloss and the like on a floor surface, and also relates to a floor polishing film, and a method of use.

As described in the specification beginning at page 1, line 7, floor polishing compositions are widely-used to provide protection, antifouling, and gloss on floor surfaces. Recently, floor polishing compositions comprise a synthetic organic high molecular (resin) material which forms a film on the floor. However, after repeated traffic thereon, especially in commercial areas, the floor polishing film becomes soiled, damaged and loses its gloss, thus requiring maintenance of the floor. Applicants have discovered that the various and desirable film properties are improved and longer-lasting when scaly particles are included in the floor polishing composition.

As recited in Claim 3, the present invention is a floor polishing composition containing a film-formable organic resin material as the main component, which further contains at least scaly particles, wherein the scaly particles are silica corresponding to layered polysilicic acid, wherein the layered polysilicic acid is scaly silica particles having particle structures of layered structures present independently to each other, which comprises foliar silica secondary particles wherein a plurality of flaky primary particles of scaly silica are overlaid one on another and aligned face-to-face in parallel with one another, and wherein the foliar silica secondary particles are obtainable by disintegrating an aqueous slurry of layer-like polysilicic acid or layer-like polysilicic salt by means of a mechanical high speed stirring system employing a disintegrating medium.

As recited in Claim 21, the present invention is also a method of treating a floor comprising applying a floor polishing composition containing a film-formable organic resin material as the main component, which further contains at least scaly particles, to the floor.

The rejection of Claims 3, 5, 8, 10-15 and 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3, 900,438 (Zdanowski et al) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,077,341 (Terase et al), is respectfully traversed. Zdanowski et al discloses no more than what Applicants have already acknowledged is in the prior art, as discussed above. The Examiner recognizes that Zdanowski et al does not disclose or suggest the use of scaly particles. Terase et al is drawn to a composite comprising metal oxide particulates and silica agglomerates having voids formed by random stacking of scaly silica primary particles, and metal oxide particulates supported on the surfaces, and the inner surfaces in the voids, of the silica agglomerates. See Claim 1 therein. Terase et al discloses its silica-metal oxide composite for use as an ultraviolet ray-shielding agent that may be incorporated in cosmetics, coating materials or resins (column 13, line 39, through column 14, line 8). With regard to the present composition claims, Terase et al's composite is not the same as, nor is it suggestive of, the particular layered polysilicic acid scaly particles of these claims. Nor for the method claims does Terase et al disclose or suggests a method of treating a floor comprising applying their composition to a floor. Nor, for the floor polishing film claims, does Terase et al disclose its composites in a floor polishing film.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner continues to find that the presently-recited scaly particles, in effect, do not distinguish over Terase et al. However, Terase et al neither discloses nor suggests that their particles are obtainable by disintegrating an aqueous slurry of

layer-like polysilicic acid or layer-liked polysilicic salt by means of a mechanical high speed stirring system employing a disintegrating medium, as now required by Claim 3.

Additionally, with respect to Claims 21-26, Terase et al's disclosure of their silica-metal oxide particulate composite for incorporation as an ultraviolet ray-shielding agent to cosmetics, coating materials or resins (column 13, lines 39-44) is not, without the present disclosure as a guide, suggestive of a method of treating a floor. Indeed, the Examiner has not even established that one skilled in the art would seek to impart ultraviolet ray-shielding capabilities to the copolymer-wax composition of Zdanowski et al.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over Zdanowski et al in view of Terase et al be withdrawn.

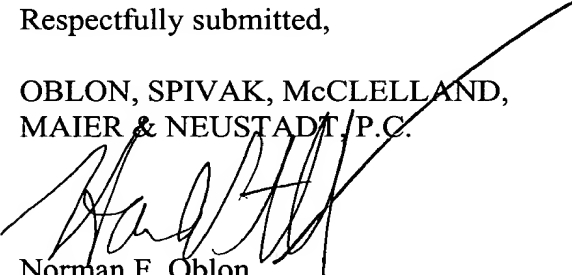
The rejection of Claims 11-14 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Zdanowski et al as modified by Terase et al, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,363,935 (Hackett et al), is respectfully traversed. Hackett et al does not remedy the above-discussed deficiencies in the combination of Zdanowski et al and Terase et al, since Hackett et al neither discloses nor suggests the presently-recited scaly particles. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

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All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
NFO:HAP:kst

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